GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:322
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
FOOD IRRADIATION TECHNOLOGY
Muqueem Shri Mohammed

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of food irradiation to preserve various products like milk is not permitted in many western countries as this poses several health hazards;

(b) if so, the present position of use of this technology on various food products in India; and

(c) the time by when the relevant paper on the subject for guidance of public users and consumer groups is likely to be brought out by the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 322 FOR 22ND DECEMBER, 2004

Irradiation to preserve several food products, except milk has been allowed in many western countries, including India.

Regulations on the use of irradiation technology in India to preserve onions, spices, potatoes, rice, semolina (sooji or rawa), wheat, atta, maida, mango, raisins, figs, dried dates, ginger, garlic, shallots (small onions), meat and meat products including chicken, fresh sea foods, frozen sea foods, dried sea food and pulses are contained under Rules, 73-78 of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955. These rules prescribe requirement for

- Doses of Irradiation,
- Requirements for the process of irradiation
- Restrictions of Irradiation of Foods
- Records of Irradiation of Food
- Standards of Irradiation food

Besides these, displaying a logo for irradiation and declaration in case of irradiated food is also necessary as per Rule 42 of PFA Rules, 1955.

Guidelines are also prescribed under the Atomic Energy (Control of Irradiation of Food) Rules, 1991.